

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant submits a full set of drawings for the prosecution of this U.S. application to replace the drawings that appear in the PCT documents previously submitted. Reference numeral 9 was added to Figure 2 in a preliminary amendment filed by the Applicants on August 30, 2005.

Attachments: Five (5) Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lehrman, U.S. Patent No. 4,956,928. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Musker, European Patent Office No. 43,700. Claims 10 and 14 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brodt, U.S. Patent No. 2,026,961. Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehrman in view of Eckhardt et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,691,027. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehrman in view of Ruttenberg, U.S. Patent No. 4,360,984 and over Brodt in view of Ruttenberg. Claims 13 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Examiner accepted the substitute drawing (Fig. 2) filed by Applicants on August 30, 2005. Applicants submit a full set of drawings for prosecution of this U.S. case to replace the drawings that appear in the PCT documents previously submitted.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 13 and 17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Withdrawal of the objections to claims 13 and 17 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lehrman, U.S. Patent No. 4,956,928.

Lehrman discloses a surface of an ironing board 50 and the underside of the ironing board cover 20. Towards the heel of the ironing board is adhesively mounted a portion of a hook-and-loop arrangement 14. When ironing board cover 20 is attached in a conventional way onto ironing board 50, the complementary hook-and-loop portions 14 and 18 will be in contact with each other. See col. 3, lines 35-50.

Claim 10 recites a heat-resistant ironing board cover comprising:

an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding.

Lehrman does not disclose “an elastic padding” as claimed. Lehrman discloses a covering “with or without an associated padding layer.” See col. 2, lines 37 to 38. However, this padding or backing 21 is not connectable in a form-fitting manner, as it merely sits a top of the ironing board. See Fig. 2 for example.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Musker, European Patent Office No. 43,700.

Musker discloses a foam backed fabric coated on its upper surface with heat reflective material. A hot melt adhesive is sprayed onto the exposed surface of the resilient foam layer. The adhesive is non-tacky at ambient temperatures but serves to bond the cover to the ironing board on application of dry heat and pressure.

Claim 10 recites a heat-resistant ironing board cover comprising:

an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding.

Musker does not disclose “an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being connectable in a form-fitting manner” as claimed. Musker discloses a “foam backed fabric” and the fabric is not connectable in a form-fitting manner at all. See paragraph [0002] of the present specification discussing Musker. Gluing is not “connectable in a form-fitting manner” as claimed.

Claims 10 and 14 to 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brodt, U.S. Patent No. 2,026,961.

Brodt discloses “a sheet of pad material to which a sheet of suitable textile material, such as unbleached muslin, is permanently secured, as by stitching with the thread to form seams.”

Claim 10 recites a heat-resistant ironing board cover comprising:

an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding.

Brodt does not disclose “an elastic padding.” Brodt discloses a sheet of pad material with a sheet of suitable textile material secured thereto. The pad includes a shallow square end pocket

portion that encloses the open end of the ironing board. The “sheet of pad material” disclosed in Brodt is not “connectable in a form-fitting manner” as claimed.

With further respect to claim 15, claim 15 recites “the bulge has snap fasteners pressable into corresponding recesses on a bottom of the ironing board.” Brodt discloses “snap sockets 7 are mounted along the edges of the pad inwardly of the reinforcing hem 6 and are positioned to engage the studs 8 that are permanently mounted in spaced relation with each other on the under side of the ironing board.” The snap sockets on the pad and permanent studs mounted on the ironing board in Brodt are not “snap fasteners pressable into corresponding recesses” as claimed.

With further respect to claim 16, claim 16 recites “the padding has a material stiffening in an area of the bulge.” Brodt discloses “the edge of the pad material is preferably made more thick by being turned back on itself and stitched to the edges of the muslin that are positioned along the lateral edges of the open end of the ironing board with the thread 3 to form an open end pad seam 12.” Brodt does not disclose an elastic padding, bulges or “material stiffening in an area of the bulge” as claimed. The folded back padding stitched to the muslin forming an open end pad seam in Brodt is not the “material stiffening in an area of the bulge.”

Withdrawal of the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehrman in view of Eckhardt et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,691,027. Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lehrman in view of Ruttenberg, U.S. Patent No. 4,360,984 and over Brodt in view of Ruttenberg.

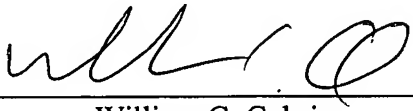
Neither, Lehrman, Eckhardt et al., Brodt nor Ruttenberg disclose “an elastic padding, the ironing board cover being connectable in a form-fitting manner to an ironing board via the padding” as recited in claim 10, nor is there any teaching, suggestion or motivation to so modify these references.

In view of the comments above with respect to claim 10, withdrawal of the rejections to the dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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